

30 minutes, temperature: 40°C) and higher quantities lead to the formation of a cellulose triacetate.

Fig. 2 shows that the reaction time should be below 1 hour and preferably of about 20 to 30 minutes in the conditions indicated in Fig. 2 (temperature and reactive quantity). For a reaction time superior or equal to about 1 hour, the esterification produces cellulose triacetate.

Both figures illustrate the production of an esterification residue which is rich in non cellulose polymers. This residue is not obtained for high purity celluloses. *AV*

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-20 as originally filed, which appear on pages 14-16, with claims 1-22 as filed in the Article 34 amendment of January 23, 2001. The pages containing claims 1-22 are marked "AMENDED SHEET" and are attached hereto. Following the insertion of claims 1-22, please amend these claims as follows:

✓
Please amend claim 5 as follows:

~~*A2*~~ 5. (Amended) Process according to claim 3, characterized in that, at the step (vii), the blend is put at a temperature of about 4°C for about 16 hours. -*AV*